Yes, Sir.

'Police* and 'Public Order are State subjects under the Seventh schedule of the Constitution and the responsibility of prison administration lies primarily with the respective State Governments. The National Human Rights Commission has made several recommendations to the State Governments for improving the conditions of prisons and prisoners which *inter alia* include the following:

(i) To reduce the overcrowing in the jails.

(ii) Speedy disposal of cases of un'dertrial prisoners.

(Hi) To take prompt action for premature release of eligible prisoners.

(iv) To improve the water and sanitary conditions in jails.

(v) System of Board of Visitors be maintained.

(vi) Security arrangements should be reviewed time to time.

(vii) Jail Adalats for petty offenders should be made functional.

Following measures have also been taken by the Government of India in this regard which are as follow:

Financial assistance is being provided to the State Governments under the Scheme of Modernization of Prisons for construction of new prisons, repair and renovatien of existing prisons and providing water and sanitation facilities in prisons to reduce overcrowding and improving the condition of prisoners.

A new section *viz* 436A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has been inserted in the Code to provide that where an undertrial prisoner other than the one accused of an offence for which death has been prescribed as one of the punishments, has been under detention for a period extending to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment, provided for the alleged offence, he should be released on his personal bond, with or without sureties. It also provides that in no case will an undertrial prisoner be detained beyound the maximum period of imprisonment for which he can be convicted for the alleged offence. Further, Section 436 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has also been amended to make a mandatory provision that if the arrested person is accused for a bailable offence and he is an indigent and cannot furnish surety, the Court shall release him on his execution of a bond without sureties.

The Government of India has introduced the system of plea bargainihg in 2006 primarily to reduce pendency of cases in trial courts and overcrowding in prisons.

For disposal of long pending sessions and other cases, the Government of India has also set up 1562 Fast Track Courts.

Augmenting States police force

2081. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will,the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has asked the States to augment their police force to make up the shortfall;

whether the Centre proposes to fund the cost on additional recruitment;

if so, the details thereof; and

what is the status of Orissa State and how far will the Centre help the State on augmentation/modernization of its police force to tackle naxal menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir. While the 'Police' and 'law & order' are State subjects as per VII Schedule to the Constitution of India, the Central Government has been regularly urging the State Governments to augment the strength of their police forces.

(b) and (c) The Central Government supplements the efforts and resources of State Government (s) by various measures which include, deployment of Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs) sanctioning of India Reserve (1R) Battalions, reimbursement of security related expenditure under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme and assistance for providing training through Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) and Ministry of Defence.

(d) Out of an approved allocation of Rs. 26.53 crore during 2007-08 under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF), an amount of Rs. 25.90 crore has been released upto 13.3.2008 to Government of Orissa to supplement its efforts in strengthening, *inter-alia,* mobility weaponry, police housing, special branches.

Pension to participants of Goa Liberation Movement Phase-II

2082. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether Freedom Fighters Pension had been granted to Participants of Goa Liberation Movement Phase-II (1954-55);

if so, the details thereof including number of application and number of applicants found eligible for same, State-wise, as on date, category-wise;

if so, whether above pension had been restricted to residents of certain States;

if so, the reasons for same and details of State in which it is granted and State which are not eligible for same; and

whether above pension will be granted to persons who had participated Goa Liberation Movement Phase-II (1954-55) and are residing in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIK RAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The requisite details are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below).

(c) to (e) Goa Liberation Movement, which is one of the movements recognized for the purpose of pension, had three phases. The freedom fighters who participated in Phases-I and III of this Movement and who fulfilled the eligibility criteria prescribed under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme 1980, were granted pension. However, the freedom fighters who participated in Phase II of the Movement were left out, as they did not fulfill the conditions laid down under the Scheme. In view of the representations received from various quarters, the Government on 4.2.2003 decided to grant central pension to approximately 3500